

OFFICE OF COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

19 MAY 1947

MEMORANDUM TO: The Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: British Liaison Unit in Documents Branch, CO.

References: A. Memorandum for the Assistant Director for Operations from Assistant Executive Director, dated 16 December 1946, subj: Policies -- Washington Document Center.

B. Memorandum to Deputy Director from Chief, ICAPS, dated 10 March 1947, subj: Intelligence Relations between U. S. and British.

C. SRMOC 206/29, Policy for the Control of the Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and Their Nationals.

D. Memorandum to all Assistant Directors and Chief, ICAPS, from Assistant Executive Director, dated 17 April 1947, amending functions of the Documents Branch, Office of Operations.

1. When the Central Intelligence Group acquired the Washington Documents Center, it inherited with it a rather vaguely defined agreement with the British for the joint exploitation of the documents material.

2. Reference A terminated the joint aspect of the operation but provided for the continued presence of British personnel on a liaison basis. To all intents and purposes, however, the joint operation has continued, and while there is no desire to terminate the British participation in the exploitation of captured documents or to hamper their operations in any way, an examination of the Central Intelligence Group charter and reference C indicates that an arrangement should be made with the British whereby they obtain their material through regularly constituted channels.

3. The President's letter of January 22, 1946 does not appear to authorize the Central Intelligence Group to enter into direct means of dissemination with agencies of foreign governments, and reference C clearly implies that the Armed Services are responsible for the release of classified military information to foreign governments under policies promulgated by the State-Mar-Navy Coordinating Committee.

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4. It is therefore recommended that the Director, without actually citing the documents mentioned in paragraph 3, inform Brigadier J. D. P. Chapman, Deputy Director of Military Operations and Intelligence, British Joint Staff Mission, that British requests for material should be placed in regularly established channels. The Director will no doubt wish to impress upon Brigadier Chapman the fact that it is not desired to hamper the British operation in any way and that although the procedure (outlined in Tab A) may seem slightly cumbersome, it has been arrived at in an effort to comply with policy and administrative restrictions on the Central Intelligence Group and at the same time to insure a continued flow through established channels of material needed by the British. If desirable, it might also be mentioned that our interest in establishing the procedure is prompted by a desire to meet the continued British need for material in the face of their progressive reduction in personnel.

5. It is further recommended that as soon as Brigadier Chapman has been informed of the general procedure to be followed, Tab A be promulgated as an instruction to the Office of Operations and that a copy, along the security rider, be furnished the British Liaison Unit.

6. The provisions of Tab A have been discussed in G-2 and Office of Naval Intelligence and have received informal approval. Upon promulgation, copies of Tab A should be furnished to the Director, Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff and the Director, Office of Naval Intelligence.

C. E. OLSEN
Captain, U. S. N.
Assistant Director for
Collection and Dissemination

Attachment:
Security Rider & Tab A

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